

**Meeting Date: March 27, 2013**

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## **EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT**

### **March 27, 2013**

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#### **PROGRAM UPDATE**

##### *Ecosystem Restoration*

###### Delta Restoration Network:

The second meeting of the Delta Restoration Network (DRN) was held at the Conservancy office on February 28, 2013. There was a consensus that the DRN could provide great value by establishing a forum for sharing information including learning, analysis, and problem solving. The group agreed that this effort needs to be supported by agency leaders and that signatures will be solicited for a revised Statement of Understanding. The participants will continue to discuss the scope of the DRN and anticipate that the next meeting will include a presentation by SFEI on their Historical Ecology of the Delta project and a discussion on the utility of landscape scale models.

The Conservancy also convened the DRN Project Tracking group on February 28th. During the past two meetings, the group has received presentations on existing systems for tracking restoration projects. At subsequent meetings, the group will continue to discuss desired tracking functions and determine which of the existing platforms represents the best opportunity to build on a successful model. The group will also determine if they will pursue an upcoming grant funding opportunity to support modifications of a selected tracking platform.

###### Coalition to Support Delta Projects:

Conservancy staff participated in the Coalition to Support Delta Projects' February 27, 2013 meeting. The Conservancy proposed three projects (Delta Arundo Control and Restoration Program, Implementation of Water Quality Management Practices & Outreach in Delta, and Delta Sustainable Farms) which were supported by the Coalitions and the stakeholders. The Delta Conservancy has been identified as an appropriate agency to continue providing leadership in moving restoration projects forward.

**Meeting Date: March 27, 2013****Page 2***Economic Development*Delta Branding Community Meeting:

The Delta Conservancy held a Delta tourism promotion workshop on February 8, 2013. The purpose of this workshop was to give businesses marketing tools they can use and to keep the Delta Branding momentum going. Participants included business owners, chamber members, and a media representative. The Delta Conservancy partnered with the Delta Protection Commission, Visit California and Central Valley Tourism Association to educate business owners on how to use promotional tools and opportunities to promote businesses, destinations and events. Visit California representatives shared how business owners can post relevant information on the Visit California website, and the Central Valley Tourism Association shared how to tap into their online resources and access their tourism magazine which devotes a full page to the Delta. The workshop was well received and participants were eager to use these promotional vehicles to direct visitors to their businesses. The Conservancy received a full page article in a local publication highlighting the tools businesses can use.

"Give Your Grant Proposal an Edge Workshop":

The Delta Conservancy held this workshop in Isleton on February 20, 2013. The purpose of the workshop was to provide the Delta Community with information to help increase their capacity to develop effective grant proposals, and improve their chances of receiving funds for Delta projects. This workshop focused on Evaluation Plan development. A representative from Sul and Associates volunteered his time and expertise to introduce an Evaluation Matrix he has developed to help organizations rethink how to evaluate their programs. Participants included representatives from the environmental education, water quality, conservation, energy, agriculture, and economic development sectors. Feedback on the workshop indicated that participants were eager to apply this new approach to their grant proposals, and appreciated the opportunity to learn how to improve their chances of receiving grant funding.

*Education and Outreach*Delta Dialogues:

The UC Center Sacramento hosted a panel discussion about the Conservancy's Delta Dialogues on Wednesday, February 6, 2013, entitled "Is Peace Possible in the Delta Water Wars?" Panelists included the participants of the Delta Dialogues and the panel was moderated by a journalist who chronicled the Delta Dialogues on the website and blog. Approximately 150 people attended the panel which was followed by a question and answer period. Daniel Weintraub of HealthyCal.net wrote a favorable piece on the panel which was also run in the Orange County Register.

Conservancy staff also participated in a CalHR webinar for the State Training Center about wicked problems and the process used in the Delta Dialogues on Tuesday, February 5, 2013. More than 200 people logged into the two-hour webinar, entitled "Beyond Gridlock."

Delta Creeks Cleanup:

The Delta Conservancy is partnering with the Sacramento Area Creeks Council to initiate a Waterways Cleanup in the Delta. To promote Delta Waterway Stewardship, the Conservancy is hosting two sites on April 13 from 9

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am to 12 noon: Upper Beach Lake near Freeport, partnering with Sacramento County Regional Parks; and Sherman Island, partnering with Rio Vista Windsurfer's Association and Sherman Island Kiteboard Organization.

## **PARTNERSHIP AND COORDINATION WITH OTHER AGENCIES**

### Habitat Enhancement of Working Landscape:

The Delta Conservancy is working with NRCS, RCDs, and other conservation groups to define a locally supported habitat enhancement program for the Delta. The group will meet again in March to discuss shared objectives and species benefits, and to develop a coordinated outreach plan.

### Delta Arundo Control Restoration Program:

The Conservancy is developing a Delta-wide Arundo Control and Restoration Program. We are collaborating with Department of Water Resources, Team Arundo del Norte (TAdN), the Sonoma Ecology Center and Solano Resource Conservation District. The Conservancy's proposed program describes project phases, a pilot project, and estimated costs. The Conservancy will coordinate the control effort with other state and local agencies.

## **GRANT AND FUNDING PROGRAM UPDATE**

The Conservancy continues to seek grant opportunities for its ecosystem restoration, economic development, education, and outreach programs. The following grant application was recently submitted.

### Citizens' Institute for Rural Design:

The Conservancy submitted an application for a \$7,000 grant from the Citizens' Institute for Rural Design on March 5, 2013. If successful, funds would be used to conduct a 2.5 day workshop focusing on how to highlight the Delta as a destination. The Conservancy is partnering with the Delta Protection Commission and the Isleton Chamber of Commerce on this grant effort.

## **CONSERVANCY BUDGET UPDATE**

### Spring Finance Letter Budget Change proposal:

In preparation of the Spring Finance Letter (SFL) process, the Delta conservancy submitted three proposals on February 7, 2013:

1. Funding increase of \$230,000 (General Fund dollars) and one permanent PY transferred from the Delta Stewardship Council to the Delta Conservancy.
2. Funding for \$1,000,000 to convene and facilitate the Delta Restoration Network to coordinate and integrate habitat restoration at the scale contemplated by the Delta Plan and BDCP.
3. Authority for hiring one temporary PY to manage grant contracts.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

Don Nottoli, Grant Support Letter

Ken Vogel, Grant Support Letter

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**OUTREACH – DELTA MEETING MATRIX**

An attached meeting matrix summarizes the most recent events and lists the key dates of future meetings.

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